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putting down the rebellion. There was some question about her loyalty; but, however loyal she may have been, the ground generally taken was, that "the government is not bound to indemnify for the use or destruction of property in the rebel states; and that property of even loyal citizens there is not to be compensated for." It is a principle of the common law too familiar to be questioned, that in an emergency, such as to prevent pestilence, shipwreck, loss of life, starvation, or in case of public calamity, private property may be taken and destroyed without the party destroying it being liable in damages. All men hold their property subject to this rule.

### "LET US HAVE PEACE."

BY S. H. BROWNE.

Enough of strife, enough of fierce contention;  
Now let the clamor and the conflict cease;  
Let Passion's cords at last relax their tension—  
"Let us have Peace!"

Enough of blood; enough of hate and slaughter!  
The fettered heart and hand shall find release,  
The turbid stream subside to crystal water—  
"Let us have Peace!"

Let us complete the work. It is not ended  
Till Freedom dares to utter her decrees,  
Till Justice shelters all the unbefriended—  
"Let us have Peace!"

Let us smite down the hydra-heads of Treason,  
Fast as they rise above their slimy seas;  
Right hoary wrongs; give scope to truth and reason—  
"Let us have Peace!"

And Peace shall come; Peace like a flowing river,  
O'er Land's true wealth and grandeur to increase,  
And from Dishonor her fair name to sever—  
"Let us have Peace!"

### REDUCTION OF WAR EXPENSES:

#### A RESULT OF THE PEOPLE'S INFLUENCE ON GOVERNMENT.

We see on every hand proof that an infusion of popular influence, the real will of the people, into government is sure in most cases to reduce its expenses, and hold in check the strong tendency to exaggerated and superfluous armaments. It is quite instructive, and full of hope for the cause of peace, that our leading general, now so near the presidential chair, is throwing his influence very decidedly in this direction, and both Houses of Congress, after long years of extravagant expenditure, are seized with such a fit of economy as to cut down appropriations by the million, and the army by ten millions at a dash. Here is a specimen:—

"The bill for the reduction of the army is based in large part on the recommendations of Generals Thomas, Schofield, Hancock, McDowell and other officers, who have recently been examined by Gen. Garfield's committee. It provides for reducing the number of infantry regiments from fifty-five, the present number, to thirty, and the men of the regiments broken up are to be mustered into others. The

Pay, Commissary, and Quartermaster Departments are to be consolidated, and the new branch will be called the Supply Department. The ordnance arm of the service is to be broken up entirely. There is to be a reduction of about one-third in each of the staff departments. The Indian Bureau is to be transferred to the War Department, and the extra line and staff officers are to be put on duty in place of the present civil officers among the Indians. These are merely the outlines of the proposed plan. It looks to a reduction of at least 600 in the number of army officers; and it is thought that the adoption of the measure will reduce the expenses of the government fully \$10,000,000 per annum. No new officers are to be mustered in; and the committee think that by death, discharge and resignation, the present force of officers can in less than three years be reduced to the average requirement of the service."

The recent increase of the popular element in the British Government is rapidly working out like results there. Mr. Gladstone's administration is making a vigorous attempt to introduce those principles of economy to which it has been pledged. A circular letter has been issued by the Board of Admiralty, exhorting all officials connected with the navy to exercise the most vigilant supervision over the expenditure for which they are responsible, intimating that their chances of promotion will depend very much upon their behavior in this respect! The condition of the Custom House and other civil offices is, also, undergoing scrutiny, and there is a general trembling among "deputies" and "assistants," whose titles, it is said, suggest the idea of "two to do one man's work." Actual reductions in high and low official sphere are announced, and the extinction of high offices, the gift of which carries valuable patronage, is hinted at.

The Pall Mall Gazette remarks: "It is a good sign that they have begun with reductions in the higher grades of the official hierarchy. It is another good sign that the Treasury has been strengthened by Mr. Gladstone's new arrangements, for little will be done without a powerful central inquiring and controlling department. It is necessary to curb by a central authority the power and pretensions of permanent under-secretaries and chief clerks of departments."

This economical movement, of course, meets with much public favor, and suggestions of new fields for reform are numerous.

DISBANDMENT OF OUR FORCES AT THE CLOSE OF THE REBELLION. — This took the world by surprise. "The impulse of military ambition," said our friends abroad, "when once acquired, is in a nation as deep-rooted and as difficult to cure as the appetite for strong drink is in an individual. It must be borne in mind that America will come out of this war with an army of 800,000 trained and experienced warriors, and a navy probably inferior only to that of England, if, indeed, it be inferior in strength and the formidable nature of its armaments. Is there the smallest probability, does our experience of other nations afford the faintest ground for the expectation, that the American people will be content to disband this army, dismantle this navy, and return to the unarmed condition in which they were found four years ago?"

We must own we ourselves had many fears on this point; but our troops, nearly a million in all, began to be disbanded, and sent back to their former peaceful pursuits within a fortnight after the surrender of the rebel armies. By this we set a new and very instructive example to the world, and proved that we are not inclined to war as a people, that our efforts to put down the rebellion had very little of the spirit or habits of war, and that all we attempted was